

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Attucks School  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 1815 Woodland Avenue N/A not for publication  
city, town Kansas City N/A vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64108

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of the 18th and Vine  
Area of Kansas City, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register N/A

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

G. Tracy Mehan, III  
Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan, III, Director

22 July 91  
Date

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Copper

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Attucks School is a two-story brick school building constructed in two separate stages. The original section was completed in 1905 with Colonial Revival influences and housed classrooms on both floors. In 1922, a two-story addition was added to the east facade with detailing similar to that on the original section. The school is sited on an urban lot adjacent to a manufacturing and commercial section of the city. Surrounding the building on all four sides are parking lots and playgrounds. There are no outbuildings.

The original section of the Attucks School is a two-and-one-half-story, H-plan, three-bay brick school constructed 1905. The original section has a raised basement, hipped roof of composition shingles, and interior brick chimney. The building is of six-course common bond construction and has a rock-faced limestone foundation. The main entrance is located on the south facade and is recessed with double doors of ca. 1960 metal and glass. Flanking the doors are original sidelights resting on rectangular paneled wood bulkheads. Above the doors is a wood transom bar and elliptical transom divided into four lights. The entrance has an ashlar limestone surround with radiating voussoirs and a console keystone. At the corners of the surround are consoles with triglyphs and guttae. Above the entrance surround is a stone cornice. Between the first and second stories of the central bay is a rectangular stone panel inscribed "ATTUCKS SCHOOL." Above this panel is a stone pediment with console shoulders.

On the second story of the central bay are three narrow window openings which rest on a continuous stone sill and are divided by brick and stone piers. The majority of original windows have been removed throughout the building and replaced with ca. 1970 metal windows. Above the windows is a stone lintel with a cornice and stone finials. Springing from this cornice is an elliptical window with a stone surround and radiating keystones. Flanking the central bay on both stories are small window openings with stone label molding and stone sills.

The basement level has rectangular window openings with stone sills. Dividing the basement level and first floor is a prominent stone belt course. Windows in the east and west bays on both floors are paired and share stone sills, label hood molding, and have stone quions in the surrounds. Above the second story windows is a terra cotta cornice which extends across the main facade. At the roofline are projecting Dutch gables in the east and west bays. These gables

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have terra cotta coping and in the gable fields are small attic windows with label hood molding, stone sills, and original two-over-two sash windows.

On the west facade the building has three bays with identical brickwork and window configuration. In the central bay of this facade is a secondary entrance which is recessed and has ca. 1960 metal and glass doors. Above the door is a stone transom bar and elliptical single light transom. This transom has a stone surround with radiating keystone designs. On the second story of the central bay is a rectangular window opening with a stone surround and quoins and above the window is a stone transom bar and rectangular single light transom with stone label molding. At the roofline is an elliptical dormer of copper construction. This dormer contains a single light elliptical attic window and a prominent copper cornice.

The rear, or north facade, has a projecting central bay which contains two smokestacks associated with the original heating system. In the central section of this bay are paired window openings with stone sills. The east and west bays each have three window openings with stone sills. Although the stone belt course between the basement and first story is present, the windows lack decorative surrounds and the terra cotta cornice is not continued on this facade. In the west bay is a small one-story, shed roof brick wing extending from the basement level which has a ca. 1960 metal door and window openings covered with plywood. Also at the rear facade is a stone and concrete retaining wall and graveled parking lot.

On the east facade an original bay remains which contains three window openings that share stone sills and label molding and have stone quoins. To the north of this bay is a three-story wing added in 1922 which connects with the adjacent gym and auditorium. At the roofline is a copper dormer identical in design to that on the west facade.

The interior of the original section has plaster walls and ceilings and original detailing. In the lobbies are hexagonal floor tiles laid in decorative patterns. Connecting the lobbies with the staircases are original double doors of single light wood and glass paneled design. The stairs are of terrazzo construction with iron newel posts and railings with wood rails and wrought iron balusters. The building's original wood floors remain along with single light glass and wood doors with single light transoms.

The 1922 addition located to the east of the original section has four bays on the main facade and details are in imitation of the original building. The main

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entrance is located in the central bay and has two sets of ca. 1960 metal and glass double doors. Above the doors is a wood transom bar and two-light rectangular transom. Above this transom is a separate wood transom bar with a three-light elliptical transom. The door surround is similar to that on the original building with console brackets and radiating voussoirs. In the center of the arch is a concrete keystone. Above this door is a brick and concrete pediment with a rectangular concrete panel inscribed "ATTUCKS SCHOOL." On the second story of the central bay is a window opening with paired ca. 1970 metal windows and original concrete sills, label hood molding, and concrete quoins. The east and west bays have large window openings with concrete sills, label hood molding and quoins, and contain five ca. 1970 metal windows. Above the second story windows is a terra cotta cornice which extends across the main facade. At the roofline is a stepped and elliptical parapet with terra cotta coping and blind attic windows of concrete.

On the east facade are four bays with each bay containing a large window opening with a concrete sill. On this facade the slope of the building results in the basement level becoming a separate floor with a second basement level located beneath. Also on this facade are two secondary entrances with ca. 1960 metal and glass doors and rectangular single light transoms. Above the second story windows is a continuation of the terra cotta cornice and at the roofline is a flat parapet with terra cotta coping. The rear facade has several window bays on the basement and first story level with ca. 1970 metal windows. The west facade has six bays with similar brick bond construction and windows.

The interior of the 1922 addition has terrazzo floors and most doors are of two paneled solid wood or eight-light glass and wood design. Above the doors are wood cornices. The auditorium has a terrazzo floor, original wood and metal chairs, and proscenium stage. The ceiling is coffered and has original plaster arches with floral bases and acorn pendants. The gymnasium is located in the basement and has its original wood floor, brick wainscoting and plaster walls, and steel I-beam and concrete ceiling. At the north and south ends of the gym are original bleacher sections.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage--Black

Period of Significance

1905 - ca. 1941

1905 - ca. 1941

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, Charles A., Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Attucks School is significant under Criterion A for its role in the educational history of the black community of Kansas City. The school is the oldest continually occupied school built for the city's black students. (See "Historic Resources of the 18th and Vine Area of Kansas City, Missouri" MPS: "Black Education in the 18th and Vine Area, 1905-1941.") Constructed in 1905, the building was designed by Kansas City architect Charles A. Smith with influences of the Colonial Revival and Dutch Colonial styles. This original building was enlarged in 1922 with the addition of a two-story wing containing a gymnasium and auditorium. Since the completion of this addition, few major changes have occurred to the school and it retains its original architectural character.

The School Board of Kansas City was organized in 1867 and a census was completed of all children in the city. The census revealed that 250 black school-age children were in Kansas City and efforts began to construct a school building to house them. A school was soon opened which was called Lincoln School and was located at the corner of 10th and McGee Streets. As the black population of the city increased in the late 19th century more schools were required. Both the Wendell Phillips School and Douglass School were opened in the 1880s and were followed by Page School and Bruce School in the 1890s.

Attucks School was established in 1893 in a rented building at 1827 E. 18th Street (now razed). The school was named for Crispus Attucks, a black killed at the outset of the Revolutionary War in the Boston Massacre. The first school was opened with W.H. Williams as principal and with two assistant teachers. The Attucks School operated at this location until 1894 when it moved to a new building at 2108 E. 18th Street (now razed). During the late 1890s, the population of the Paseo District continued to rise rapidly and the existing Attucks School building was deemed inadequate for its many students. In 1904, the School Board authorized the construction of a new two-story brick building to serve the area. The property of Fred Talby was purchased on Woodland Avenue and construction began on a new two-story schoolhouse.

☒ See continuation sheet

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The new Attucks School was completed in 1905 at a cost of \$36,811 and was designed by Kansas City architect Charles A. Smith. Smith became architect for the school board in 1898 and retained this position for almost forty years. During his tenure with the school board Smith designed more than fifty buildings. Smith's design for the Attucks School was a symmetrical building embellished with Colonial Revival influences and with touches of the Dutch Colonial style in the projecting gables at the roofline. The building contained four large classrooms on each floor with central hallways.

When the school opened J.D. Bowser was assigned as principal and the school had an enrollment of several hundred students. Most students came from the Paseo District which included the heavily black section around 18th and Vine Streets. In 1911, the Attucks School property was valued at \$81,000 and had 13 teachers and 560 students. Only three other black schools, Garrison, Lincoln, and Lincoln High School were comparable in size and in the number of teachers.

Over the next decade the black population of Kansas City continued to increase especially within the blocks surrounding the Attucks School. By 1922, the school was so overcrowded that the school board authorized the construction of a two-story wing which was connected to the east facade of the original building. This addition was also designed by architect Charles Smith and details of the new section were reflective of the original building. This added wing was built with a gymnasium, auditorium, and classrooms on both floors.

Over the next several decades the Attucks School was one of the main grade schools for black students in Kansas City. In 1950, the Attucks School had almost 1,000 students, a number exceeded by only four other black schools in the city. The Attucks School continued to be used as a grade school for all races following integration of public schools in the 1960s. The building remains utilized for students in the area and it is the oldest continually occupied school built for black students in Kansas City.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 1.1 acre

UTM References

A 

1	5	3	6	5	1	5	5	4	3	2	7	6	0	5
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Attucks School includes the northern half of lot 2 of the Flournoy Partition.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Attucks School includes all property historically associated with the building.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason date 12/21/89

organization Thomason and Assoc. telephone 615-383-0227

street & number P.O. Box 121225 state TN zip code 37212

city or town Nashville

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Bibliography, Attucks School

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McKenzie, Dr. Richard. "Black History Project in Kansas City." Manuscript on file with the Black Archives, Kansas City, Missouri.

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~~18th and Vine Multiple Resource Area~~

Attucks School

Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

Date: September, 1989

Photo by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN

Neg: Department of Natural Resources

View: South facade, towards north.

Photo # 1 of 4

View: Entrance on original building's south facade.

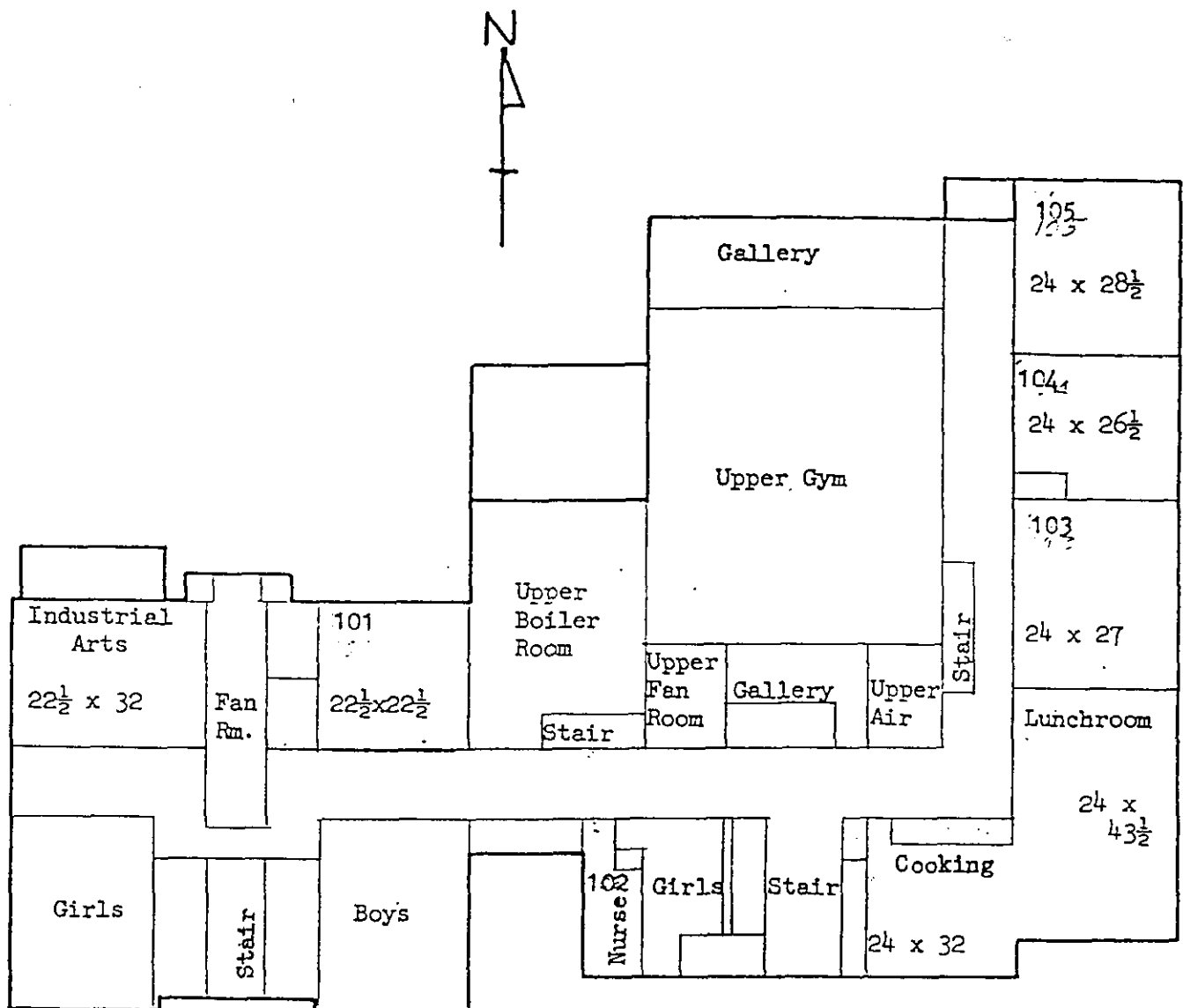
Photo # 2 of 4

View: East facade, towards west.

Photo # 3 of 4

View: North facade, towards southeast.

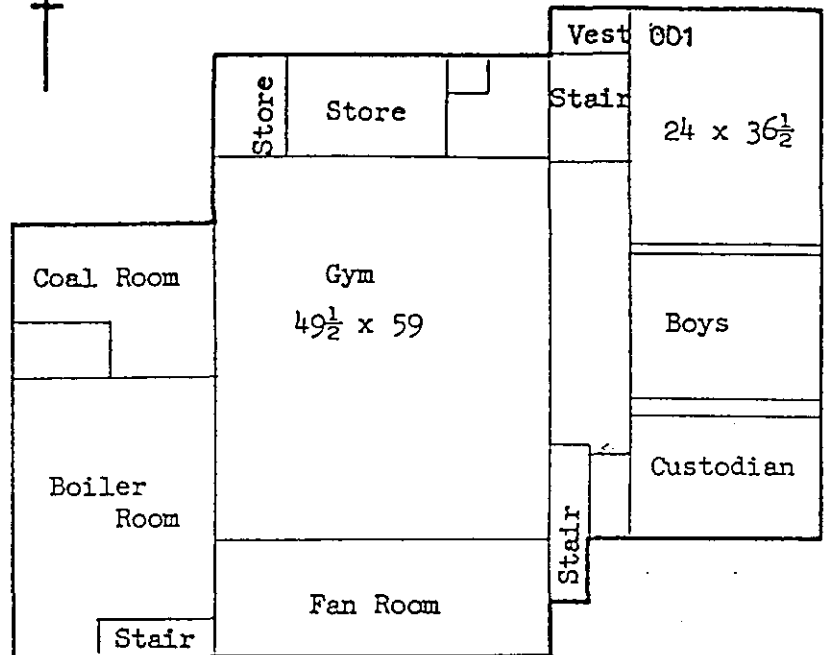
Photo # 4 of 4



FIRST

Aug 18 1970

SCALE 1" = 30'  
ATTUCKS



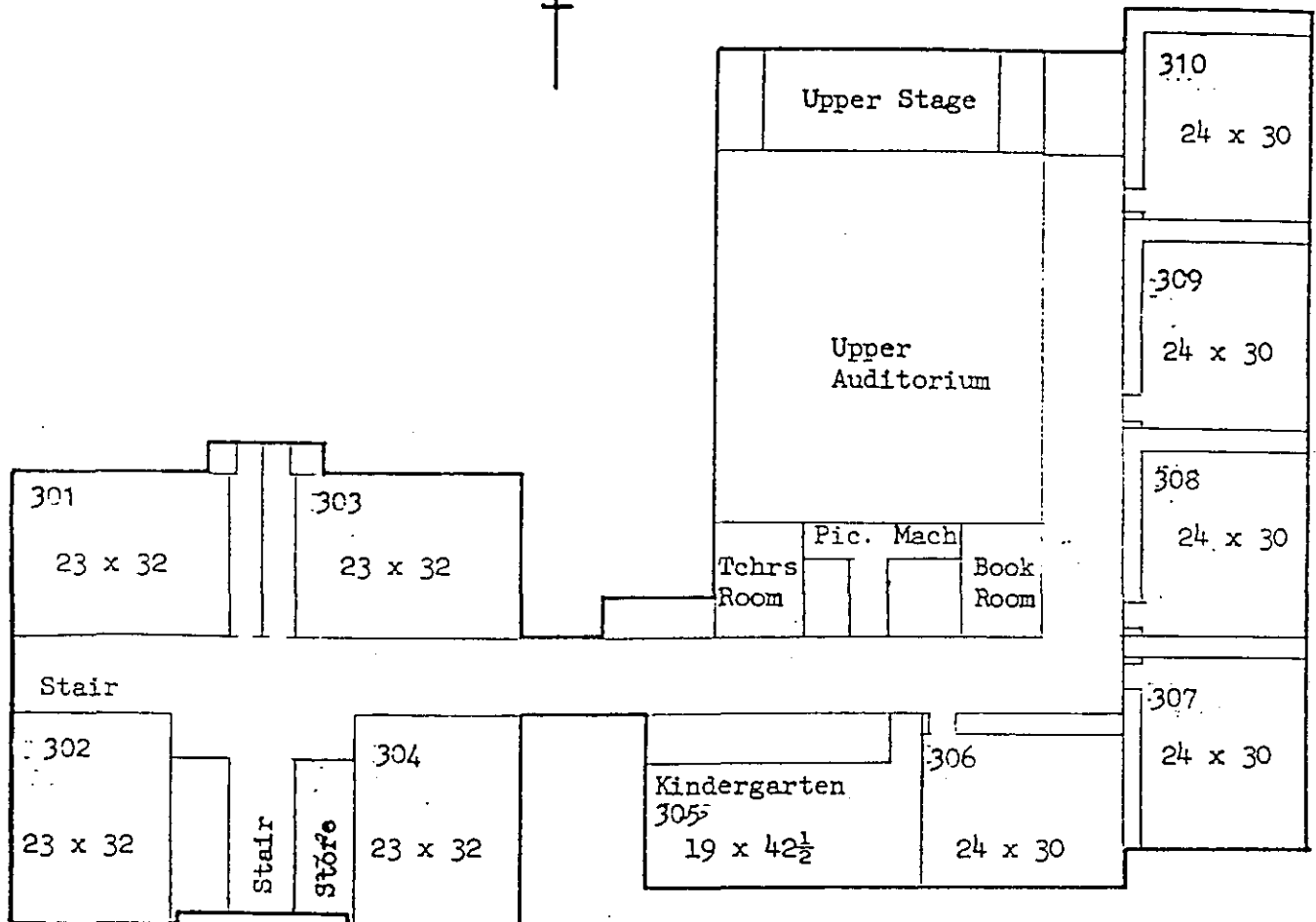
GROUND

AUG 15 1970

SCALE 1" = 30'

**ATTUCKS**

1818 East 19th.

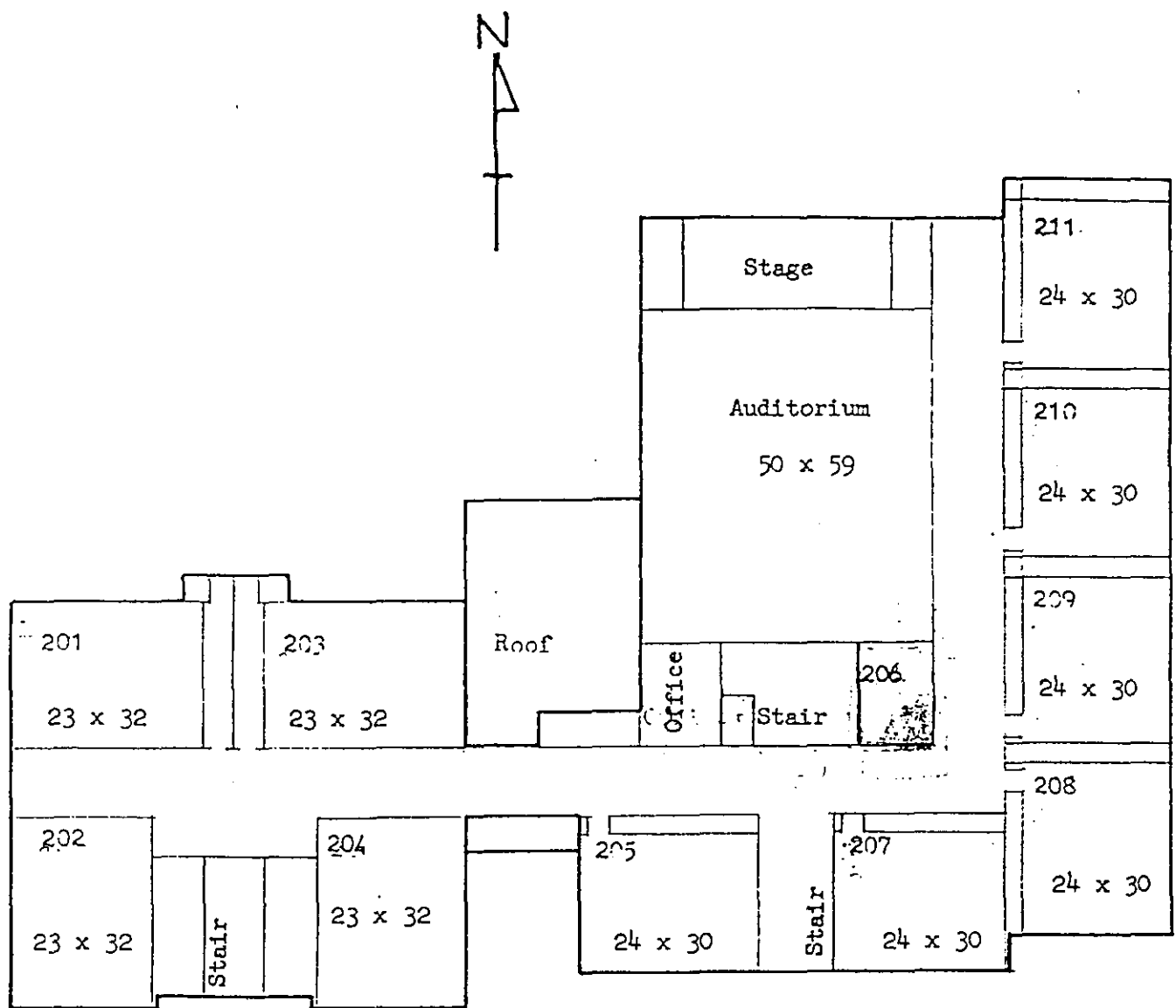


THIRD

AUG 13 1970

SCALE 1" = 30'

ATTUCKS



SECOND

AUG 18 1970

SCALE 1" = 30'  
ATTUCKS



ATTUCKS SCHOOL KANSAS CITY, MO  
Photo # 1 of 4

ATTUCKS SCHOOL, KANSAS CITY, MO  
Photo # 2064







ATTUCKS SCHOOL, KANSAS CITY, MO  
Photo # 3 of 4





ATTUCKS SCHOOL KANSAS CITY, MO  
Photo #1014